

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 2 February 13th, 2017

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

The French existentialist writer, Albert Camus, stated that, "Life is a sum of all your choices". The weekend readings at Mass reinforced this idea that we are what we have chosen to be by way of our responses to the many and varied choices that we take, or may be forced to take, in our lives. The reading from Sirach confirmed the notion of choice: "If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power". Taken in isolation, this message of 'choice' appears simple, however, many decisions that we make and many of the multitude of choices that we are presented with each day may often be made in the absence of all the information available and, therefore, a poor choice is only apparent after we have made it and through no fault of our own.

The world abounds with contradictions and one of our roles as adults is to endeavour to educate children in making sense of their world. Our busy lives are often both a source of satisfaction and discontent and it is our role as adults, being responsible for another person's future direction, to heed Goethe's statement that, "*Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least*".

During our morning assemblies this year I commended the students on their excellent behaviour to start the year – we celebrated a week that has been 'free' of relocations. This achievement does not just happen. Staff at St Patrick's believe that one of the "*things which matter the most*" is the development of strong, fair and clear behaviour management that allows for both discipline and reward. Implementing such a program is influenced greatly by our own constant vigilance and your support; this reinforcing in children the willingness and ability to make the 'right choice' will be exhausting but we can see the fruits of these labours in the sense of consideration that is currently being displayed by so many members of our school community.

The reality is that we often have no choice of many influences on our lives, however, what we do have is some choice over what we make of our lives once we are informed. Thank you to those families who, through actions and words, promote the importance of making good choices.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

February

Monday 13th	9:00am Morning class prayer assembly - Year 6 house and school captain candidate speeches.
Wed 15th	6:00pm parent information sessions
Thursday 16th	School canteen begins (each Thursday and Friday)
Friday 17th	9:00-10:45am Playgroup begins (each Friday during term time) Year 6 leadership day (Camp, Clayton)
Monday 20th	9:00am Morning class prayers assembly (Year 6) - Commissioning Service for school staff and student leaders. 2:00pm P & F meeting (Kinder classroom) 7:00pm Sacramental Program meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Devonport.
Tuesday 21st	Mitch working in Year 4 on the 'Spirit Of Jesus' program.
Wed 22nd	9:30am Parish Mass (Year 6 attending)
Friday 24th	9:00-10:45am Playgroup Matt Jones (Assistant Director:North) visiting
Monday 27th	9:45am-2:00pm) School Swimming Carnival (Latrobe Pool) 6:00pm School Board meeting
Tuesday 28th	Shrove Tuesday - Pancakes available for sale to raise funds for Project Compassion.

March

Wed 1st	Ash Wednesday - Years 3 to 6 attend Parish Mass at 9:30am
Friday 3rd	9:00-10:45am Playgroup
Monday 6th	9:00am Morning class prayers assembly (Year 4)
Monday 13th	PUBLIC HOLIDAY (Eight Hour Day)
Tuesday 14th	Year 4 attend camp (Camp Clayton)
Wed 15th	Year 4 attend camp (Camp Clayton)
Friday 17th	9:00-10:45am Playgroup St Patrick's Day - SCHOOL FAIR

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017

Term 1:	Thursday 9th February - Thursday 13th April
Term 2:	Monday 1st May-Friday 7th July
Term 3:	Monday 24th July-Friday 29th September
Term 4:	Tuesday 17th October-Thursday 21st December

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Parent Information Evening - Wednesday 15th February 6:00pm

All families are welcome to attend a parent information evening tomorrow, **Wednesday 15th February**, commencing with the Principal's brief address at 6:00pm in the Assembly Hall. Each teacher will present information to families regarding their expectations and class routines during the evening with the venues being the respective classrooms. Teachers will present two identical 20 minute presentations commencing at 6:15pm and 6:40pm, with time available for discussion with families. A handout summary will be available for families who are unable to attend the evening.



School Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures are available electronically from the school website or in print form upon request from the school office. Information regarding policies and procedures will be a regular feature of our school newsletter. A summary of our school Grievance Policy is included below:

St Patrick's Catholic School Grievance Procedures **Information for Parents**

Making a Complaint

At St Patrick's Catholic School, we believe that the relationship between home and school is a very important part of ensuring that children are happy, secure and open to learning. We recognise that parents and teachers need to work closely together to provide the best educational opportunities for their children. We encourage you to discuss your child's progress with his/her teacher and to let us know if you have any concerns so that we might work together to resolve these as promptly and effectively as we can.

What to do if you have a problem:

- Decide whether the problem is a concern, inquiry or complaint. This will help in finding a solution.
- Try to identify the problem clearly before contacting the school. If there is more than one problem, list them to ensure that the extent of the problem is clear to the school.
- Make an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. The best way to do this is to contact the teacher either verbally or in writing to arrange a mutually convenient time for a telephone call or meeting.
- If, after your meeting, you do not feel that the matter has been resolved, or if you have a complaint about the teacher or another staff member, make arrangements to meet with the Principal.
- Unresolved or very serious matters are initially best addressed by writing to the Principal and arranging a meeting.
- Try to stay calm when discussing your concern. Even if you don't feel it, being calm will help you to get your concerns across more clearly than if you are upset or angry. It may help to take someone with you.
- Remember, the school staff are committed to resolving any issues that parents might have regarding their children and staff will discuss with you actions that might be taken in regard to your concern.
- If you still do not feel that the matter has been resolved or if your complaint is about a very serious matter, send your complaint in writing to the Assistant Director: North for St Patrick's Catholic School at the Catholic Education Office.
- If the matter has still not been resolved, notify the Director of Catholic Education stating your concerns in writing. If no resolution has been achieved, the Director will arbitrate after a thorough examination of the grievance and related issues.
- If matters still remain unresolved you have the right to seek arbitration through the courts, ombudsman, legal representation and other government commissions such as Human Rights Commission etc. These might be at some financial costs to you.

Note: **Mutually agreed mediation is available at any time throughout the process.**
Neither The School Registration Board nor the Secretary of the Department of Education deal with complaints within the Catholic Education System.

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT, W.E.S.T. and MERCY VALUES

We will continue to acknowledge those students who exhibit WEST (*Welcoming, Encouraging; Sorry; Thankful*) qualities by presenting awards at our Monday morning assemblies. Families are always most welcome to attend our weekly assemblies. For the month of February our whole school PBS focus is "**Belonging** and our WEST focus is '**Welcoming**'. We encourage you to talk to your child about this monthly focus and what it means to him or her. Students in Years 3 to 6 voted for House and School Captains yesterday - we were impressed with the thoughtful speeches made by a large number of Year 6 students who were nominating for these positions.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Jimmy Tueon for a great start to Prep.

Year 1: Harrison Fawkner for positive team work.

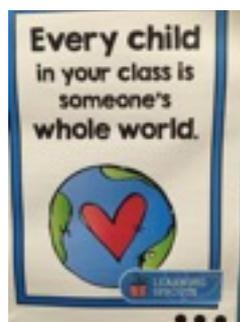
Year 2: Hadassah Overton for displaying fabulous listening skills.

Year 3: Ava Chamley for her positive, enthusiastic and hardworking start to the year.

Year 4: Ryan Guard for amazing work with manipulating numbers

Year 5: Krystal Riley for her positive attitude and enthusiastic approach to the new school year.

Year 6: Tom Bond for his positive start to the year and thoughtful reflections.



Sacramental Program

Families with children in Grade 3 or above are warmly invited to participate in our Sacramental Program to prepare to celebrate the sacraments of RECONCILIATION, CONFIRMATION and EUCHARIST this year. Information sessions to explain the preparation program will be held on:

- Monday 20th February, 7.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Stewart Street, Devonport or
- Tuesday 21st February 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church, Alexandra Road, Ulverstone

For further information please contact the Parish Office 6424:2783

Fees and Levies / Payment Arrangements

Families who have yet to return a payment arrangement form would have received the form with last weeks newsletter. Please return these forms back to the school office by no later than this Thursday 16th February. An invoice for 2017 school fees are included in today's mail to families. Please contact Mr Linhart to arrange for a discussion on how the school can assist with the payment of school fees should this be a concern for you (such conversations are held in confidence).

Commissioning Service

A commissioning service for staff and student leaders will be conducted by Father Mike at 9.00am on Monday 20th February all families are most welcome to this special occasion.

School Canteen

The School Canteen will **commence this week**. Information regarding the menu and prices was sent home with last weeks Newsletter, or you can download from our Skoolbag app or school webpage.

Kookaburra Club Accounts

Students who have existing Kookaburra Club Accounts (school banking) will have their accounts closed by 31st December 2017 and new accounts will not be opened this year. Students can continue to deposit into existing accounts they hold until the 31st December 2017, and they will receive a letter soon detailing how to close their account and transfer funds. We are exploring other options for school banking and will inform families when we have an option confirmed.

School Swimming Carnival - Monday 27th February

Please refer to the letter and permission slip included as an insert in this Newsletter.

